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OF THE

FOR THE YEAR 1954

BOROUGH OF ALDERSHOT



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954

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COMMITTEE CONCERNED WITH THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT, 1954

HEALTH COMMITTEE

His Worship the MAYOR (ALDERMAN JOHN DREW, J.P., C.C.)

(ex officio Member of the Committee)

CHAIRMAN :

COUNCILLOR MISS M. E. KEMP

ALDERMEN: MRS. N. P. BENNETT SNELL, W. G. EDDY, F. STAY, O.B.E.

COUNCILLORS: S. N. CHRISMAS, W. A. DREW, W. C. FORD, L. W. GEORGE, T. HODGSON, F. MORRISON, COLONEL W. D. HUGHES, C.B.E.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (District Health Sub-Committee): MRS. G. BENNETT (Representing Aldershot Voluntary Welfare Association), MRS E. COOK (Representing Stanhope and Wellington Lines Military District Welfare Centres), MRS E. NASH (Representing St. John Ambulance Brigade), MRS. P. RICHARDSON (Representing British Red Cross Society), MRS. F. W. TAYLOR (Representing Aldershot Town Maternal and Child Welfare Voluntary Committee).

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Medical Officer of Health :

Divisional School Medical Officer :

Physician Superintendent, Northfield I.D. Hospital :

J. CRAIG LINDSAY, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Meat and Food Inspector :

Hackney Carriage Inspector :

Shops Act Inspector :

W. E. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

W. H. M. EDWARDS, M.S.I.A., N. H. RODGERS, C.R.S.I.

Chief Clerk :

A. C. AYLESBURY.

Clerical Assistants :

MISS G. LODGE, MRS. E. E. SHELLEY.

Rodent Operator :

W. H. MCGOWAN.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF ALDERSHOT

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This Annual Report, which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, is the tenth in my post-war series.

The year under review was free from any major incident as far as the outbreak of infectious diseases was concerned and concentration of work, therefore, was devoted to inspections required under the various Housing Acts and at the same time our interest in the domiciliary health services was maintained. While these domiciliary services are, strictly speaking, the responsibility of the Hampshire County Council, it is impossible in the course of one's work to divorce oneself from the fact that the health and well-being of the population of this town depends very much on their adequacy and availability, the final responsibility for which rests with the Borough Council. Thus every effort is made to interpret the domiciliary services in the terms which can be understood by the average man and woman so that they may make full use of them where required. I have been much encouraged in this work by the happy relationship which is growing up between the Borough Health Department locally and that of the County Medical Officer in Winchester, and while nothing is laid down in black and white as to what we can or cannot do, there is undoubtedly a feeling that a worth while arrangement is being arrived at gradually. No doubt in the fullness of time a satisfactory scheme for devolution will be arrived at, but such a scheme is not yet in sight and, like other things, may have to wait on the pending reorganisation of local government.

There is one further point worthy of mention and that refers to the population figure of this Borough, which is of considerable importance in arriving at the various statistics which we have to return each year. Owing to the artificial boundaries which exist between ourselves and our neighbours an exact figure is extremely difficult to arrive at, and when one realises that, statistically speaking, we are dealing in relatively small numbers, the margin of error in some of them may be quite considerable and due to circumstances outside our control. The large overspill population from this Borough which is increasing in adjoining areas leads to rather an artificial set-up because the natural tendency is to "export" many of our good families, leaving the problem group behind.

In conclusion, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like, on presenting this Report for your acceptance, to tender my thanks for the co-operation and confidence which I have received from all members of the Borough Council, not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of my staff.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. CRAIG LINDSAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1954

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated population for mid-year 1954 (including non-civilian)	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,630
Comparability factor—Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.09
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.50

LIVE BIRTHS						Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	293	274	567
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	14	21	35
Total	...	...	...	...	...	307	295	602

STILLBIRTHS								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	9	6	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	16

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	12

Crude Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Birth Rate (Corrected with Comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.9
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.9
Death Rate (Corrected with Comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Infantile Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	46.5

Number of domestic houses and flats at 31.12.54	...	...	...	...	...	6,467
Number of commercial premises	...	...	...	...	...	808
Number of licensed premises (excluding Off-Licenses)	...	...	...	...	...	53
Rateable Value (December, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	£305,020
Acreage:—Civil 1,431; S. Camp 2,745; Total 4,176.	...	...	...	...	...

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH

ACCORDING TO DISEASE

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	—	5
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	3	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	12
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	15	37
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	18	36
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	12	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	1	4
20. Other heart disease	23	20	43
21. Other circulatory disease	7	5	12
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	3	5	8
24. Bronchitis	8	2	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	4	—	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	14	28
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	4	5	9
35. Suicide	4	2	6
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
Totals	160	115	275

INCIDENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) Incidence.

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Measles	574	97	497	3
Whooping Cough	84	96	63	81
Scarlet Fever	29	33	55	22
Malaria (Camp)	—	22	25	17
Dysentery	1	3	23	27
Meningococcal Infection	5	2	6	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	6	6	3
Pneumonia	3	1	3	—
Diphtheria (Camp)	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	3	10	2	1
Non-Paralytic	3	4	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning (Camp)	—	4	—	1
Erysipelas	—	1	—	1
Smallpox (Variola Minor)	—	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	32	40	35	25
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3	1	1

The table shown above indicates that the year 1954 was particularly free from infectious disease. From the figures given for previous years, it will be noted that we have been fortunate in avoiding the usual visitors, such as measles and whooping cough, on any large scale anyway. The slight increase in dysentery was dealt with in my Report last year and is no doubt directly proportional to the interest taken in it and the number of specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory, by the General Practitioners, for examination.

(b) Control.

The Public Health Department as usual worked in very close conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory in Guildford in regard to the identification and control of any unusual diseases which occurred in the area. This is particularly applicable in the case of Food Poisoning, outbreaks of which are on the increase throughout the country. Nevertheless it is very pleasant to be able to record that no single outbreak of food poisoning was identified in the Borough during the year 1954, and while this must not be interpreted as a reason for complacency in our work of food hygiene, it does show that conditions are satisfactory for the present.

(c) Hospital Services.

The happy liaison which exists with the hospitals and this Department was maintained and no doubt fostered by my membership of the Hospital Management Committee and Medical Advisory

Committees, as has been the case for a number of years past. The gradual improvement of the hospital buildings and the gradual elaboration of the facilities given therein is clearly shown when one looks at the following details which refer to the hospitals only within the Borough of Aldershot.

Civil.

ALDERSHOT HOSPITAL:

General	...	...	...	...	32 beds
Maternity	...	...	...	...	16 beds
Children	...	...	...	...	15 beds

Outpatients Department includes Surgical, Medical, Gynæcological, E.N.T., Pediatric, Ophthalmic, Psychiatric and Pathological facilities.

NORTHFIELD HOSPITAL:

Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	24 beds
General	...	...	...	...	14 beds

Outpatients Department includes Chest Clinic, Special (including V.D.) Clinic, Laundry and Disinfecting Station.

Military.

CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL	...	...	600 beds
LOUISE MARGARET HOSPITAL	...	...	75 beds

The close relationship of the Public Health Department with the Northfield I.D. Hospital was fully dealt with in my Report for last year and I would refer to the details given therein as supporting a case for the closest liaison in infectious disease control between prevention and treatment.

(d) Tuberculosis.

The following figures indicate the incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough during the years mentioned:—

				PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
				Males	Females	Males	Females
1946	...	...	...	18	15	4	3
1947	...	...	...	22	15	3	—
1948	...	...	...	17	14	4	4
1949	...	...	...	17	13	2	2
1950	...	...	...	18	13	—	5
1951	...	...	...	19	13	2	1
1952	...	...	...	20	20	1	2
1953	...	...	...	10	25	—	1
1954	...	...	...	15	10	—	1

Mass Radiography Unit.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited Aldershot in June, 1954, and the following extract from their Annual Report is given, showing the details relating to a selection of adjoining areas for comparison.

**EXTRACT FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT (SURREY,
N.E. HAMPSHIRE, N. SUSSEX, AND CROYDON AREA) FOR 1954**

Survey	LOCATION	(a) Type of sur- vey	Number of persons examined on miniature films			ABNORMALITIES							No. of cases await- ing diag- nosis
						Active P.T.			Inactive P.T.		Non- tuberculous		
			Males	Females	Total	Males	Fe- males	Inci- dence per 1,000 exam- inees	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	
16	Farnborough (Hants) Factory Group	II	3995	852	4847	6	3	1.8	151	25	121	22	—
19	Farnham District	I	1035	1671	2706	—	—	—	33	51	38	36	—
20	ALDERSHOT DISTRICT ...	I	1254	1584	2838	2	—	0.7	44	55	64	48	1

(a) *Type of Survey*: I—General Public, Factory Workers, Clerical Staff and Schoolchildren. II—Factory Workers, Clerical Staffs, only.

(e) Diphtheria Immunization

The following statistics show the work done during 1954 :—

Age	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total
Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunization in the authority's area during the year, 1954.	81	201	50	29	11	58	23	453
Number of children who received a secondary (re-inforcing) injection i.e. subsequent to primary immunization at an earlier age, during the year 1954	—	—	—	1	6	399	82	488

TABLE I
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunization at any time before that date (*i.e.*, at any time since 1st January, 1940).

<i>Age at 31/12/54 i.e., born in year</i>	<i>Under 1 1954</i>	<i>1-4 1953-1950</i>	<i>5-9 1949-1945</i>	<i>10-14 1944-1940</i>	<i>Total Under 15</i>
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster):—					
1950-1954 	83	1,336	2,212	523	4,154
1949 or earlier 	—	—	862	1,420	2,282

TABLE II

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

<i>Description</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Where held</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>By whom held</i>
Child Welfare Centres	Child Welfare	Manor Park House St. Augustine's Church Hall	Mondays, 2 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 p.m. Thursdays, 2 p.m.	Hampshire County Council Hampshire County Council
Ante-Natal Clinics	Supervision of expectant mothers	Manor Park House	Tuesdays, 2 p.m. (Dr. Dobbin); Thursdays, 2 p.m. (Dr. Page)	Hampshire County Council
Relaxation Classes	Supervision of expectant mothers	Manor Park House	Tuesdays and Thursdays, a.m. (Hospital cases) Wednesdays, a.m. (Midwives' cases)	Regional Hospital Board Hampshire County Council
Immunization Clinic	Protection of children against diphtheria and whooping cough	School Clinic	1st Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.	Hampshire County Council (Aldershot Borough Council Acting as agent)
Minor Ailments Clinic	Treatment of minor ailments and medical inspections	School Clinic	Every morning at 9.30 a.m. (Med. Officer's Clinic on Mondays and Thursdays at 9.30 a.m.)	Hampshire County Council (Local Education Authority)
Dental Clinic	Dental treatment of school-children	School Clinic	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	Hampshire County Council (Local Education Authority)
Ophthalmic Clinic	Examination of ophthalmic cases and prescription of spectacles	Manor Park House	1st, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, plus additional sessions as required	Regional Hospital Board

Table II.—continued overleaf

TABLE II—Continued.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

<i>Description</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Where held</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>By whom held</i>
Audiometric Clinic	Hearing testing of school-children	School Clinic	1st Thursday in month at 10 a.m.	Hampshire County Council (Local Education Authority)
Orthopaedic Clinic	Examination and supervision of muscle joint defects	School Clinic	1st Tuesday in month, —morning sessions.	Regional Hospital Board
Remedial Exercises	Treatment of orthopaedic cases	School Clinic	Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays—all day	Regional Hospital Board
Child Guidance Clinic	Child guidance	Manor Park House	Mondays and Wednesdays—all day	Hampshire County Council (Local Education Authority)
Speech Therapy Clinic	Correction of speech defects	School Clinic	Tuesdays and Fridays —all day	Hampshire County Council (Local Education Authority)
Chest Clinic	Examination of definite and suspected cases of tuberculosis	Northfield Hospital, Redan Road	Mondays, 2 p.m. — A. P. Refills, Tuesdays, 9.45 a.m. — Old patients Tuesdays, 11.15 a.m. — New patients	Regional Hospital Board
Special Clinic	Treatment of venereal diseases	Northfield Hospital, Redan Road	Males: Mondays, 5—7 p.m. Females: Wednesdays—morning and afternoon sessions	Regional Hospital Board
Family Planning Clinic	Birth control	Manor Park House	1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays in month, 2—4 p.m.	Women's Voluntary Organisation

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply.

I am indebted to the Chief Engineer, Mid Wessex Water Company, Frimley Green, for the following information which is submitted on the lines set out in the Ministry of Health circular 2/50 dated 25th January, 1950:—

- (i) Water is supplied by the Mid Wessex Water Company and is obtained from wells at Boxall's Lane. An adequate supply for all purposes without restriction was maintained throughout the year.
- (ii) Samples of water were taken regularly and frequently by the Company before and after treatment at the works, and in supply. They were examined chemically and bacteriologically by their resident Chemists and Bacteriologists and in addition samples were submitted to an independent specialist for report at regular intervals. The reports during the year on all samples of treated water at the works and in supply have shown a consistently high standard of organic and bacterial purity. Precautionary chlorination treatment is applied continuously at all sources.
- (iii) The water distributed in this area is a normal chalk and lower greensand blended water and has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action was necessary, as far as the Company was concerned, to deal with any form of contamination.
- (v) (a) There are approximately 6,568 connections in the Borough of Aldershot, supplying a population of 31,000.

(b) We believe there are no premises supplied by standpipe.

(b) Hardness of Water, 1954.

Regular analyses have been carried out in order to chart the total hardness of water in the Borough. The following results have been obtained and are given in parts per 100,000 and grains per gallon:—

				<i>Parts per 100,000</i>	<i>Grains per gallon</i>
January	...	...	...	22.5	15.75
February	...	...	...	23.0	16.1
March	...	...	...	21.5	15.05
April	...	...	...	23.0	16.1
May	...	...	...	21.0	14.7
June	...	...	...	22.5	15.75
July	...	...	...	24.0	16.8

August	...	...	...	23.0	16.1
September	...	...	...	23.0	16.1
October	...	...	...	26.5	18.55
November	...	...	...	23.0	16.1
December	...	...	...	19.5	13.65

(c) Drainage and Sewerage.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following report on drainage and sewerage for this area:—

Work on the re-design of the Corporation Sewage Works at Ash Road has been proceeding during the year and it is anticipated that a Contract for the reconstruction work will be let during the course of the ensuing year.

Sewage is still being treated from the Guildford Rural District Council area and additional sludge beds to cope with this increased flow have been completed during the year under review.

The effluent has been maintained to the satisfaction of the Thames Conservancy Board.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

I have to report that no case occurred during the year where action was required to be taken under this Section. Various homes were visited, however, and, by local adjustment which usually meant consultation with the General Practitioner, Area Welfare Officer and others, the drastic step of official action was avoided.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE (FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948)

The following details are shown:—

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Insp't's (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	18	19	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	116	226	10	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	2	1	—	3
TOTAL		136	247	12	—	

Cases in which Defects were found:—

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecut's were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Insp. (5)	By H.M. Insp. (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	2	2	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...							
(a) Insufficient	9	3	3	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	6	6	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	1	1	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	12	12	—	—	—	60

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel—								
Making, etc.	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	13
Cleaning & washing	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Household linen ...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Lace, lace curtains & nets ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Curtains and furniture hangings ...	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Furniture & upholstery	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Electro-plate	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
File making	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Brass and brass articles ...	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Fur pulling	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Iron and steel cables and chains ...	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Iron and steel anchors & grapnels ...	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Cart gear ...	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Locks, latches and keys	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Umbrellas, etc. ...	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Artificial flowers ...	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Nets, other than wire nets ...	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	29

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)—continued.

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110				Section 111		M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Tents	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Sacks	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Racquet and tennis balls	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Paper bags ...	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or or partially of paper ...	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
Brush making	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Pea picking	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	36
Feather sorting	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
Stuffed Toys	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
Basket making ...	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Chocolates & sweetmeats	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	41
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	42
Textile weaving ...	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	43
Lampshades	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
TOTAL	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	70

HOUSING

The records of housing which follow are shown by courtesy of the Borough Surveyor's Department and the Borough Treasurer's Department:—

(a) Houses, etc., completed during 1954.

Month 1954	Houses com- pleted by L.A.	Flats con- structed by L.A.	Conversions or adaptations of properties to provide flats		Houses compl't'd by P.E.
			By L.A.	By P.E.	
January ...	—	12	—	—	1
February ...	—	—	—	4	—
March ...	—	—	—	—	5
April ...	4	—	—	—	1
May ...	3	18	—	—	2
June ...	—	—	—	—	1
July ...	3	12	—	—	2
August ...	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	—	—	—	—	1
October ...	—	18	—	—	3
November ...	2	9	—	—	5
December ...	—	9	—	—	3
TOTALS ...	12	78	—	4	24

(b) Summary of Housing Applications as at 31st December, 1954.

CIVILIAN

Year	Single	Married Couples	Children									Aged Couples	Widows	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
1938 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1944 ...	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
1945 ...	—	8	3	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	19
1946 ...	1	4	2	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	15
1947 ...	—	7	3	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
1948 ...	—	20	15	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	48
1949 ...	1	11	20	12	5	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	55
1950 ...	1	19	30	31	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	89
1951 ...	1	27	48	25	9	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	117
1952 ...	1	41	38	27	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	5	5	127
1953 ...	4	48	36	31	12	3	—	—	—	—	1	5	10	150
1954 ...	5	60	62	30	11	4	5	—	—	2	—	2	14	195
Total ...	14	247	260	174	54	17	9	1	2	2	1	19	35	835

SERVICES

Year	Single	Married Couples	Children									Aged Couples	Widows	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
1944	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1945	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
1947	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1948	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
1949	—	3	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	10
1950	—	2	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	9
1951	—	1	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
1952	—	1	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9
1953	—	3	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
1954	—	11	14	5	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	36
Total	—	22	36	25	11	3	1	1	—	—	—	100

All requisitioned properties were released by July, 1954, and the families rehoused.

(c) Housing Policy.

The provision of adequate housing accommodation for the overcrowded and badly housed people of the Borough still remains a major problem, the end of which is not yet in sight. With a population of 39,630 and some 6,467 houses, the waiting list of 900 families seems a staggering proportion for a country district. Taken in conjunction with a civil acreage of 1,431 acres, to find space to build the houses on is as much a major problem as building the houses themselves. Indeed, it has been said that the Council would be justified in closing the Housing Waiting List as the chances of a family obtaining accommodation at the present rate of rehousing, if they apply now, are faint indeed and would involve a waiting period of some 10 years.

The process of building houses in adjoining areas is being employed as far as practicable, but reference has already been made to the unsatisfactory effect this must have, in the long run, on the balance of the community as a Borough. The constant "skimming off" of many of our best types of citizens must have an adverse effect on the life of the Borough when looked at from a long term point of view.

The importance of making the best use of our existing although limited housing resources renders the work of inspection under the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, urgent and vital. Plans for rehabilitation and clearance began to take shape during 1954 and will be ready for submission in 1955. Thus it is hoped that the opportunity will be taken to replan very extensively the North Town area as well as certain others such as the Crimea Road area which has been under review for some time but which presents certain difficulties.

SECTION PREPARED BY THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

INTRODUCTION

I have pleasure in submitting to you my section of the Annual Report for 1954 and my ninth as your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

It has been a year of steady progress in dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the district, Housing, Inspection of Factories, Shops, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Detailed Housing Inspection has been commenced in connection with Slum Clearance and by the commencement of the New Year various schemes will be submitted.

An additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed in May, 1954, but terminated his appointment after nine months on obtaining a post abroad.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and Staff for their co-operation and support during the year.

W. E. ROBERTS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

During the year 1954 the following inspections and visits were made by the Sanitary Officers in respect of:—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	420
Water Supply and Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Nuisances arising from Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive Accumulations and Noxious Matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Disinfection of Houses and Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	248
Council Houses prior to vacation and Prospective Tenants for Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Vermineous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Other Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Factories with Mechanical Power and Without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Outworkers Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Streams and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Swimming Pool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Works in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
Dustbins, 1st Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,500
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and Mice Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,780

Number of Notices Served.

To secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions dangerous to health, the following action was taken:—

No. of Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
No. of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	168

Nuisances and Other Matters dealt with.

During the year the following complaints were received and attended to:—

Defective Cisterns and Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Choked and Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Premises Infested with Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Wasp Nests	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Nuisances arising from Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,055
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply Reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Obstructed Flues Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive Accumulations and Noxious Matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Outwork.

Lists received in accordance with requirements of the Act contained names and addresses of four Outworkers. No instances were found of homework being carried out in unwholesome premises.

Bakehouses.

There are 11 Bakehouses on the Register to which 26 visits were paid during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

It was not necessary to take any action in respect of Smoke Abatement in the Borough during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Your Sanitary Inspectors are appointed Authorized Officers for the administration of this Act. Four shops are licenced for the Sale of Pet Animals.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises registered under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Rodent Control.

One Rodent Operator is employed for Rodent Control work and excellent results were obtained during the year. Details of this work are summarized below.

Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,006
Premises Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	670
Visits for Baiting and Extermination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,775
Total Quantity of Material used (approximately 6 cwt. Sausage Rusk, 50 lb. Bread, 15 lb. Sugar, 6 galls. Linseed Oil)								803 lb.
Total Quantity of Poison used (approx. 28 lb. Warfarin, 5 lb. Arsenious Oxide, 5 lb. Zinc Phosphide, 18 lb. Cymag)								56 lb.
Number of Rats Killed (Estimated Minimum)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,630
Number of Mice Killed (Bodies found)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	895
Amount Charged in respect of Disinfestation Work	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£16

Council properties are kept under regular supervision and control, the Sewage Works and Salvage Depot are constantly receiving treatment. No charges are made for work carried out at private dwelling houses, but in the case of business premises a charge is made for the work performed.

By arrangement with the hospitals and a few business premises. a contract for the eradication of rodents is carried out over a twelve month period.

Co-operation is maintained with the Army Authorities who are responsible for Rodent Control work on War Department property.

It is believed that the rat population has now reached a relatively low level, but mice were again more in evidence.

Various experiments were tried, using a mixture of Warfarin, Castor Sugar, Sausage Rusk and Linseed Oil, with excellent results and wholesale clearance of infested premises. These experiments were witnessed by members of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Staff and the formula handed to them for future use.

Owners and occupiers co-operated generally by carrying out proofing work and by giving attention to drainage defects. In no case was formal action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, necessary, but two informal notices were served.

Rodent Treatment of Sewers.

The Annual Test Baiting of the whole area was carried out on the 15th October, 1954, and of the manholes baited, 8 showed complete takes and 2 partial takes.

Two maintenance treatments were given. In the first 48 manholes were baited and 29 poisoned, 7 showed complete takes and 3 partial takes. Material used: Sausage Rusk and $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ Zinc Phosphide. In the second, using Bread Mash and 10% Arsenious Oxide, 38 manholes were baited and 24 poisoned, showing 9 complete takes and 6 partial takes.

North Hants Rodent Control Committee.

The Council remained a member of the North Hants Rodent Control Committee, which comprises the Borough of Aldershot, the Farnborough and Fleet Urban District Councils and the Hartley Wintney Rural District Council, the representatives being one member of the Local Authority with the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the District. Quarterly meetings were held in different districts when both technical and administrative matters were discussed. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Aldershot Military District and Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee attended these meetings, making their contributions to problems arising.

During the year we were joined by three more authorities, namely Basingstoke Borough Council, Basingstoke Rural District Council and Alton Rural District Council.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

No formal action was necessary under this Act, all work being done by informal action.

Insect Pests.

Eighty-nine wasp infestations were eradicated during the year, the local authority giving a free service in this connection.

The extermination of cockroaches in five food premises was carried out on a rechargeable basis.

Swimming Pools.

Six samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination during the open season from the Town Swimming Pool and Children's Paddling Pool and the results were satisfactory. In addition, Chlorine tests were carried out by the Superintendent.

Common Lodging House.

There is one Common Lodging House in the district and regular visits have been paid during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There are no registered houses let in lodgings in the district.

Shops Act, 1950.

Late in the year a survey of shops was commenced and a start made on the compilation of a new Card Index Register. Inspections numbered 389 and in five instances service of notice for various infringements were served under the Shops Act, 1950.

Provision of Dustbins.

The Municipal Ownership of Dustbins still continues satisfactorily and has much to commend itself. 1,848 bins of British Standard Specification have been distributed during the 21 months in which the scheme has been in operation.

Moveable Dwellings.

There were no licences granted to station caravans in the district during the year.

HOUSING

The housing position still remains acute and there were 935 families on the waiting list at the end of the year.

The Corporation have built and are building a number of three-storey flats, but the lack of building land within the Borough hinders the solving of this problem.

As the result of demolition of four unfit houses, two small sites will be available for Council building in the coming year.

The following is a summary of progress made towards the provision of new houses:—

1. Permanent houses and flats provided by the Council during the year 82
2. Houses erected by private enterprise during the year 24
plus

Accommodation provided by the conversion or adaptation of properties to flats 4

211 complaints in respect of housing defects and dampness were investigated and defects of an urgent character dealt with in order to make the houses reasonably habitable.

The response of property owners continues to be fairly good, informal notices usually being complied with, rendering Statutory Action unnecessary. The high cost of building repairs is still a very serious matter to owners of low-rented properties.

The one family remaining in the block of twelve houses represented and taken over by the Council in 1950 has been rehoused. The houses are awaiting demolition and the site will be used for building in the near future.

The occupants of the two houses represented to the Council in 1953 have been rehoused and the houses will be demolished in the New Year.

Six houses were represented during the year and of these four families have been rehoused. Two of these houses will be demolished early in the New Year and the Council have accepted an undertaking for these premises to be used for purposes other than housing.

Two houses were in such a state as to be dangerous and were demolished by the owners, the Council rehousing the tenants.

The new Rents and Repairs Act was introduced during the year and one application for Certificate of Disrepair was granted.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(a) (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Act)	346
(2) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	895
(b) (1) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected under the Housing Act	70
(2) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	121
(c) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(d) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	62

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	168
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of Formal notices	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal notice	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
1. Number of dwellinghouses of which demolition orders were given	2
2. No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenant or room having been rendered fit	Nil

HOUSES REPAIRED

The following is a list of repairs executed:—

Roofs Repaired	43
Rainwater Downpipes Repaired or Renewed	10
Eavesgutters Repaired or Renewed	15
Walls and Ceilings Plaster Renewed	65
Scullery Floors Reformed	2
Other Floors Repaired or Renewed	7
Skirting Boards Repaired or Renewed	7
Firegrates Repaired or Renewed	7
Cooking Ranges Repaired or Renewed	10
Washing Coppers Repaired or Renewed	5
Hearths Repaired or Renewed	1
Windows Repaired and Made to Open	28
Window Sills Repaired	6
Doors Repaired or Renewed	8
Basement Steps Repaired	1
Stairs Retreaded	1
New Stair Handrails Provided	2
Fanlights Repaired	1
Walls Repointed	3
Damp Walls Remedied	36
New Air Bricks Provided	10
Chimneys Repaired or Renewed	3
Mantel Shelves Repaired or Renewed	1
Yards Paved or Repaired	3
New Sinks Fitted	6
Sink and Bath Wastepipes Repaired or Renewed	7
New Soil, Ventilating Shafts Provided	6
New W.C's Provided	18
New Drain Inspection Covers Provided	6

DRAINAGE

Work carried out under the Public Health Act, 1936, in relation to the giving of notice in respect to the repairs and alterations of drainage of existing buildings. The following works were carried out under the supervision of this department.

Premises drained to public sewer	...	2
Drains reconstructed	... ..	4
Drains repaired	... ..	23

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES

During the year 28 premises were found to be verminous and 28 premises comprising 40 rooms were disinfested.

In all instances where families are moved to Council Houses or Requisitioned accommodation within the Borough, an inspection is made of all furniture and bedding to be removed, and of the premises to which the family is moving. Any vermin infestations thus discovered are dealt with before removal takes place.

The treatment consists of spraying with liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. and removal of bedding to the Isolation Hospital for Steam Disinfestation.

DISINFECTIONS

Number of rooms disinfected after infectious, contagious and other diseases	... ..	20
Number of cases where bedding was subjected to Steam Disinfection and Disinfestation	... ..	20 Loads
comprising		
Mattresses	... ..	50
Blankets	... ..	140
Pillows	... ..	100

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD MILK SUPPLY

No milk is produced within the Borough, but all milk sold is either Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised or Sterilised.

To maintain satisfactory standards we resort to weekly sampling and during the year 377 samples were obtained and submitted for examination, of these 7 failed to pass the Phosphatase Test and 1 failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Monthly returns of all samples taken are now forwarded to the Ministry of Food, Milk Division, Thames Ditton.

The Local Authority licence and supervise the one pasteurising premises in the Borough on behalf of the County Council.

There has been an increase in the number of Dealers' Licences issued during 1954, this has been necessary owing to the fact that small shopkeepers have resorted to the sale of bottled Designated Milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The following table shows the number of designated milk licences granted during the year.

Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk:—

Dealers' Licences	4
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Pasteurised Milk:—

Pasteuriser's Licence	1
Dealers' Licences	37

Sterilised Milk:—

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	30
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	1

ICE CREAM

There are four Ice Cream Manufacturers in the Town, two of which produce a Cold Mix.

Six additional premises were registered for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream, bringing the number on the register to 102.

In most cases the Ice Cream sold is prepacked, usually made by large manufacturing firms, who secure local agents for the sale of their products in the Borough.

Vehicles entering the district for the sale of Ice Cream made in outside areas were also inspected.

Fifty-two samples were taken during the year and the following is a summary of results.

<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
43	3	6	Nil

In all cases where results fell within the Provisional Grade 3, investigations were carried out to discover any defects, etc.

One manufacturer also manufactured Ice Lollies and these premises were kept under observation.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat Inspection.

During the year meat was derationed, the Ministry of Food relinquished control of the one slaughterhouse in the Borough and the burden of ensuring sufficient slaughtering capacity was placed upon the local authority.

On the 11th March a meeting was held when representatives of butchers, farmers and local authorities in this area were present to decide what slaughtering capacity was necessary and it was agreed that a slaughterhouse in the Borough was a necessity.

A full report on the structure and siting of this slaughterhouse was submitted to the Corporation, which they considered, bearing

in mind the views of the trade together with the responsibility placed on them for providing adequate slaughtering facilities during the "interim period" (i.e. until sufficient new slaughterhouses had been constructed), and it was decided that the existing slaughterhouse be licenced for a period of 12 months upon the Ministry of Food relinquishing control.

Thus after 14½ years of complete Ministerial Control the meat trade passed back into private hands. It immediately became apparent that the number of cattle and sheep to be killed would fall considerably and that pig slaughtering would increase to an extent never before known in this Borough. To help in this direction the tenant of the slaughterhouse installed a small vertical boiler, an amenity for which we had been pressing the Ministry of Food for many years. This enabled greater speed in the scalding of pigs.

In all 681 visits were made to the slaughterhouse and 9,027 animals were inspected.

Swine Fever.

One casualty pig sent to the slaughterhouse was found on post mortem examination to be suffering from swine fever.

The police, who are the officers under the Diseases of Animals Acts, were notified, the carcase was destroyed by burning at the Corporation Destructor and the necessary disinfection carried out.

Cysticercus Bovis.

Prior to the change-over it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Food to see that all affected carcasses remained in Cold Store for the requisite period of at least 21 days.

The position is now somewhat different. The carcase remains the property of the butcher, but it is the duty of the Health Department to ensure that both carcase and offal is placed in cold store and retained for the stipulated period. When a carcase is removed from this area to another district the local authority concerned is notified accordingly. A carcase and offal placed into cold store is labeled, the label bearing the date on or after which the carcase or offal may be released. In practice this system works quite smoothly and no attempt has been made to remove a carcase before the expiry of 21 days.

Sixteen cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were found during the year. This showed a very slight increase over 1953 (1.13% as against 1.05%).

Food Unfit for Human Consumption.

Upon decontrol the disposal of unsound meat became the responsibility of the local authority and a similar system to that in operation with the Ministry of Food continued, all condemned meat

being disposed of to a reputable contractor who manufactures it into a fertiliser. Receipts are obtained by the tenant of the slaughter-house and are available for our inspection. By this method use is found for unsound meat from which the country benefits and the local authority is released from the expense of collecting and burning it.

Livers which are affected with distomatosis, angioma, etc., but which are not otherwise affected, are allowed to be sold for pharmaceutical purposes and a small proportion for mink feeding.

There is no harm in this practice since the livers in question are absolutely unsaleable for human consumption.

The following were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Bovines

<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>Other Diseases</i>
4 Carcases	2 Carcases
4 Complete Offals	2 Complete Offals
9 Forequarters	22 Heads
3 Hindquarters	1 Clod and Shin
3 Briskets	1 Beef Trimming
69 Heads	42 Lungs
116 Lungs	298 Livers
29 Livers	241 Part Livers
30 Mesenteries	5 Mesenteries
4 Hearts	7 Hearts
4 Skirts	14 Spleens
7 Spleens	5 Tripes
3 Tripes	9 Udders
	5 Kidneys

Calves

<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>Other Diseases</i>
1 Carcase	2 Carcases
1 Complete Offal	2 Complete Offals
	1 Leg
	5 Livers
	1 Lung

Pigs

<i>Tuberculosis</i>	<i>Other Diseases</i>
3 Carcases	7 Carcases
3 Complete Offals	7 Complete Offals
40 Heads	1 Leg
10 Plucks	1 Shoulder
14 Mesenteries	1 Trimming
	2 Heads
	31 Plucks
	16 Sets of Runners
	7 Kidneys
	50 Livers
	52 Hearts
	224 Lungs

Sheep

Other Diseases

6 Carcases
6 Complete Offals
2 Heads
1 Flank
1 Kidney
30 Plucks
268 Livers

Carcase Meat Condemned ...	6,782 lbs. or 3 ton, 0 cwt., 2 qtrs., 6 lb.
Offal Condemned ...	14,326 lbs. or 6 ton, 7 cwt., 3 qtrs., 18 lb.
Total ...	<u>21,108 lbs. or 9 ton, 8 cwt., 1 qtr., 24 lb.</u>

Table Showing Animals Inspected and Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouse

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number Killed ...	995	410	766	4,108	2,748
Number Inspect'd	995	410	766	4,108	2,748
<i>All Diseases except T.B.— Whole Carcases Condemned ...</i>	—	2	2	6	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	376	184	6	297	339
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with Diseases other than T.B. ...	37·8%	45·4%	1%	7·4%	12·6%
<i>Tuberculosis only Whole Carcases Condemned ...</i>	3	1	1	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	87	73	—	—	45
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with T.B. ...	9%	18%	0·1%	—	1·7%

Other Foods

(a) Meat Products.

604 lb. Beef (Bone Taint)	18 lb. Pork
18 lb. Beef (Abscess)	1 Pigs Forequarter
46 lb. Ox Liver	2 lb. 6 oz. Lambs Sweetbreads
12½ lb. Ox Kidney	31½ lb. Sausages
25 lb. Kidney Fat	12 lb. Jellied Veal
200 lb. Pigs Plucks	10½ lb. Ham
21 lb. Calves Liver	7 Chickens
112 lb. Chitterlings	6 lb. Corned Beef
257 lb. Beef (Putrefaction)	4 lb. Pressed Beef
6½ lb. Beef Trimmings	65 lb. Rabbits
1 Ox Head and Tongue	12 lb. Pork Luncheon Meat
20 lb. Chuck Steak	21 lb. Bacon

(b) Groceries and Confectionery.

450 lb. Prunes	3 lb. Sugar
1½ lb. Margarine	45 Cakes
10 lb. Flour	84 lb. Potatoes
35 Chocolate Rolls	151½ lb. Currants
20 pints Milk	56 lb. Cooking Fat
120 lb. Sultanas	57 lb. Biscuits
1½ lb. Lard	11 Swiss Rolls

(c) Canned and Bottled Goods.

2 bottles Foodstuffs (Miscellaneous)	865 tins Foodstuffs (Miscellaneous)
67 pkts. Foodstuffs (Miscellaneous)	225 tins Milk

(d) Fish

35 lb. Cod	28 lb. Hake
56 lb. Plaice	
Other Food Condemned	... 4,178 lbs. or 1 ton, 17 cwt., 1 qtr., 6 lbs.

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FOOD, INCLUDING

DISEASED MEAT, ETC., CONDEMNED

DURING THE YEAR 25,286 lbs. or

11 tons, 5 cwts., 3 qtrs., 12 lbs.

Food Premises.

Continued inspection and improvements to food premises have been maintained during the year.

Many shops have provided glass screens and enclosed glass counters to protect foodstuffs exposed to dust, droplet infection or handling by customers.

Personal habits respond rarely to legislation so it is rather a process of education, and I should like to see schoolchildren taught elementary food hygiene and provided with the facilities and equipment necessary to practice it. Young persons then passing from school to food trades would have some basis to which specialised knowledge could be added as circumstances required. The full effect of this would not be noticed for some years.

I feel that pressure from the consuming public would bring about more quickly, cleaner and safer methods of food handling than can be introduced by officials, and with this support any premises where the highest standards were not maintained would soon be forced to close.

During the year 537 visits were made to food premises and 53 improvements carried out.

Notices Served	...	...	...	...	20
Notices Complied with	...	...	...	...	21

Improvements to Food Premises.

Floors relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Walls rendered or tiled	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Extra natural light provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Extra ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other structural repairs and alterations	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sinks fitted or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Constant hot water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
W.C's repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C's redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Visits to Food Premises.

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers and Other Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Street Hawkers and Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Market—Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

Food Preparing Premises.

No premises were registered during the year for the manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved food and the total number of premises remains at 18.

All registered premises are supplied with constant hot water and washing facilities.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The number of slaughtermen on the Register on the 31st December, 1954, was 12. These licences are now granted on a three-year basis.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration.

Food and drugs sampling under this Act is carried out in the Borough by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. C. O. Perry, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, for the following information which he has supplied.

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	
	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Butter and Other Fats	4	1
Drugs, Ointments, etc.	1	2
Meat Products	8	—
Spirits	6	—
Other Foods	12	—
Milk	97	—
	<hr/> 128	<hr/> 3

The 97 samples of milk proved to contain an average of 3.34% fat and 8.77% non-fatty solids.

Unsatisfactory Samples.

- (1) Lard was certified to contain 5.22% of water.
- (2) Sulphur Ointment was certified to be deficient in Sulphur.
- (3) Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine was slightly deficient in Ammonia.